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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE (U.S.
HELSINKI COMMISSION)

March 7, 2023

The Honorable Bryan Steil

Chairman

House Committee on Administration

Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Morelle

Ranking Member

House Committee on Administration

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle:

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight one initiative relevant to this committee that is important to me.

I would like to urge the committee to reinstate the U.S. state flags which were formerly displayed in the Rayburn subway tunnel. It was the correct decision at the time to remove state flags from the Rayburn tunnel in 2016 after debate over Mississippi's state flag, which included an image of the Confederate battle emblem. However, since Mississippi voters chose a different state flag, "The New Magnolia" in 2020, it seems appropriate to reinstate the flag display. The quarters that line the hallway now are blah, like something out of a B-grade black and white movie. The flags, on the other hand, add great panache and vibrancy.

These flags provide Members, staff and visitors a look into each state of America. Many have commented to me that they miss seeing the flags in the tunnel. I hope to see them hanging once again, just as they still do in the Senate subway tunnel.

Thank you for considering this request and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Cohen

Member of Congress